



INQUIRIES

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JOB VACANCIES, MARCH 1976

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Preliminary results of the March 1976 job vacancy survey were published on 17 September 1976 in *Job Vacancies, March 1976 (Preliminary)* (Reference No. 6.58). This bulletin contains revised and more detailed figures.

Scope and coverage

2. All vacancies for wage and salary earners were covered except those:

- . in the defence forces
- . in agriculture
- . in private households employing staff
- . for waterside workers employed on a casual basis, and
- . for employees of private employers (other than hospitals) not subject to payroll tax.

At the time of the selection of the sample, payroll tax was payable by employers paying more than \$400 a week in wages and salaries. In general, Australian Government bodies, religious and benevolent institutions, public hospitals and other similar organisations are specifically exempted under the Australian and State Payroll Tax Acts, 1971-75.

3. Included in the survey results are vacancies for all categories of employees, including managerial, full-time, part-time, permanent, temporary and seasonal employees; and adults, juniors, trainees, apprentices, cadets, etc. Excluded are vacancies that would have been filled by persons already hired, by promotion or transfer of existing employees, or by employees returning from paid or unpaid leave or after industrial disputes. Also excluded are vacancies that were not immediately available for filling on the survey date, that is, those that became available after the specified date, and vacancies for work to be done under contract, such as by building sub-contractors, owner-drivers, etc.

4. Because of limitations in scope and coverage (e.g. private employers not subject to payroll tax were

excluded), survey results do not give the total number of job vacancies in Australia at the survey date, that is, 26 March 1976. The underestimation may be greater in those industries (e.g. retail trade) and occupations (e.g. shop assistants) where the payroll tax coverage is relatively low.

Sample design

5. Employers included in the survey were selected from lists of employers stratified by State, sector, industry and number of employees. All Australian and State government departments and authorities, private employers with 500 or more employees and local government authorities with 250 or more employees were included. Samples of private payroll taxpayers, non-government hospitals and local government authorities were selected from the remainder. The total number of employers in the survey was about 8,500.

Definitions

6. A *job vacancy* was defined as a job immediately available for filling on the survey date and for which active steps were being taken by the employer to find or recruit an employee from outside the enterprise or authority in the particular State or Territory. Active steps to find or recruit an employee included efforts to fill vacancies by advertising, by factory notices, by notifying government or private employment agencies or trade unions and by contacting, interviewing or selecting applicants already registered with the enterprise or authority.

7. *Vacancies for adults* comprise those for which the adult rate of pay would be paid, and include all vacancies open to either adult or junior applicants without preference.

8. *Vacancies for juniors* are those open to applicants under 21 years of age who would not be paid at the adult rate for the occupation. Vacancies for apprentices, trainees, cadets and other juniors were reported against the occupation for which they were to be trained.

9. *Vacancies for males or females* are those jobs open to male or female applicants without preference.

10. *Private sector* refers to private employers subject to payroll tax and employees of non-government hospitals not subject to payroll tax.

11. *Government sector* refers to employees of Australian and State government departments, authorities and semi-government bodies and of local government authorities.

12. The *job vacancy rate* is calculated by expressing the number of job vacancies as a percentage of the number of employees plus vacancies.

Reliability of the estimates

13. As the private sector and the local government sector were surveyed by means of samples (see paragraph 2), the estimates in this bulletin may differ from the figures which would have been obtained from a complete census using the same questionnaire and procedures. Such differences are called sampling errors.

14. One measure of the sampling error is given by the *standard error*. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained from a comparable full enumeration, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

15. Standard errors for estimates shown in this bulletin are less than 20 per cent except where indicated. Estimates with standard errors of 30 per cent and over are not shown. Approximate percentage standard errors of estimates of total vacancies for each State and Territory and for Australia are: N.S.W. 6.8, Victoria 5.0, Queensland 7.0, S.A. 8.4, W.A. 9.6, Tasmania 16.8, N.T. 23.5, A.C.T. 8.4, Australia 3.1. Thus there are, for example, about two chances in three that the true figure for the number of job vacancies shown for Australia in Table 1 as 50,800 is within the range 49,200 to 52,400.

Comparability with Commonwealth Employment Service statistics

16. For a number of reasons the estimates obtained from the survey differ from the number of vacancies

registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES). The table below shows the number of job vacancies in March of each year 1974 to 1976 as measured by the two sets of statistics. For purposes of comparison, job vacancies in primary production have been excluded from the CES figures.

17. The principal reason for the differences is that, because notification of vacancies is voluntary, many vacancies are not registered with the CES. Other reasons are:

- (a) the survey estimates relate to vacancies *immediately* available for filling on the survey date, whereas the CES statistics relate to vacancies which were unfilled at the Friday nearest the end of the month and which employers claimed could be filled if labour were supplied *immediately or within the following month*.
- (b) the coverage of the job vacancy surveys was somewhat restricted (see paragraph 2) and the results are subject to sampling variability (see paragraphs 13–15).
- (c) the CES figures may include some vacancies already filled or cancelled by the date at which the figures are compiled, but about which the CES may not have been notified.

Related publications

Users may also wish to refer to the publication *Job Vacancies, March 1974 and March 1975* (Reference No. 6.49), which is available on request.

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Publications of the Australian Bureau of Statistics* (Reference No. 1.8).

NOTE. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in tables are due to rounding.

JOB VACANCIES, AUSTRALIA

Comparison of CES and survey figures

	March 1974	March 1975	March 1976
Registered with the CES (a)	85,348	32,915	22,190
ABS survey	165,200	55,200	50,800
Ratio of CES to survey figures (per cent) (b)	52	60	44

(a) Excludes primary production. (b) Because the coverage of the surveys was somewhat restricted (see paragraph 2) the percentages may be affected by the exclusion of some vacancies.

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TABLE 1. JOB VACANCIES, STATES AND TERRITORIES, MARCH 1976

									Australia			
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	For adults (a)	For juniors (a)	Total	
JOB VACANCIES												
	Number ('000)											Per cent
For males	8.2	10.0	3.1	2.3	2.5	(d)1.0	*	(d)0.3	25.0	2.8	27.8	54.8
For females	(d)4.0	3.8	1.8	0.7	0.4	0.2	*	0.2	8.7	2.4	11.1	21.9
For males or females (a)	3.2	4.3	1.0	1.7	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.7	11.0	0.8	11.8	23.3
Total	15.3	18.2	5.9	4.7	3.4	1.5	(d)0.8	1.1	44.7	6.1	50.8	100.0
Private sector (a)	11.6	14.2	3.6	3.2	2.5	(d)0.9	(e)	(e)	32.7	4.2	36.9	72.7
Government sector (a)	3.7	4.0	2.3	1.5	0.9	0.5	(e)	(e)	12.0	1.9	13.9	27.3
Manufacturing (b)	5.0	6.5	1.3	1.6	0.9	0.3	(e)	(e)	14.6	1.1	15.7	30.9
Non-manufacturing (c)	10.3	11.7	4.5	3.0	2.5	1.2	(e)	(e)	30.1	5.0	35.1	69.1
JOB VACANCY RATE (a) (per cent)												
	1.0	1.5	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.3	(d)3.1	1.4	(e)	(e)	1.2	

(a) For definitions see paragraphs 6 to 12. (b) *Australian Standard Industrial Classification* (ASIC) Division C. (c) ASIC Divisions A to L, excluding Division C (manufacturing), Sub-divisions 0.1, 0.2 (agriculture, etc.) and 94 (private households employing staff), and defence forces. (d) Standard error greater than 20 per cent, but less than 30 per cent – see paragraph 15, page 2. (e) Not available.

* Information not available because the figures are subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses.

TABLE 2. JOB VACANCIES : PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS, MARCH 1976 ('000)

Code number (a)	Occupation (a)	March 1976	Code number (a)	Occupation (a)	March 1976
025	Medical practitioners	0.3	660	Electricians, including electrical mechanics	0.6
030-034	Nurses, including probationers and trainees	2.4	673,697	Tradesmens assistants	0.5
042,045	Lecturers, teachers	0.8	720-728, 736	Production – process workers – Food and drink	1.3
070	Draftsmen and tracers	0.4	670-672, 735, 737	Other	3.3
071-081	Technicians and technical assistants, n.e.c.	1.3	743-745, 748, 750	Storemen and packers	0.4
083	Social workers	0.3	767	Labourers – Building and construction	(b)0.4
100-119	Administrative, executive and managerial workers	1.0	782	Other	2.7
150,160	Book-keepers, cashiers, office machine operators	0.6	772-781, 783-785	Policemen	1.1
155	Stenographers and typists	1.5	801	Other protective service workers	0.4
161-163	Other clerical workers	6.5	802	Cooks, maids, catering and kitchen workers	(b)1.0
200-201, 211-217	Sales workers, excluding commercial travellers	4.5	807-809	Cleaners, offices, buildings	(b)0.7
400-425	Miners, quarrymen and related workers	0.2	821	Nursing aides and assistant nurses	0.5
520-522, 524	Drivers, road transport	1.0	851	Other occupations	14.3
642	Fitters, turners – metal trade	1.0			
646	Motor vehicle mechanics	1.2			
653	Welders and flame cutters	0.6			
Total					50.8

(a) As defined in the *Australian Classification of Occupations*. (b) Standard error greater than 20 per cent but less than 30 per cent – see paragraph 15, page 2.

TABLE 3. JOB VACANCIES – OCCUPATION GROUPS (a), PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT SECTORS, MARCH 1976

Major occupation group (a)		Private sector (b)	Government sector (b)	Total	
				Number ('000)	Per cent
0.	Professional, technical and related workers	3.8	5.1	8.9	17.6
1.	Administrative, executive and managerial workers				
2.	Clerical workers	4.5	4.1	8.6	17.0
3.	Sales workers	4.5	0.1	4.6	9.0
5.	Miners, quarrymen and related workers	*	†	0.2	0.5
6.	Workers in transport and communication	1.0	0.7	1.7	3.4
4,7/8	Tradesmen, production – process workers and labourers, n.e.c. (c)	20.0	1.7	21.7	42.8
9.	Service, sport and recreation workers	2.8	2.1	5.0	9.8
Total		36.9	13.9	50.8	100.0

(a) Major occupations groups of the *Australian Classification of Occupations*. (b) For definitions see paragraphs 10 and 11. (c) Includes farmers, fishermen, hunters, timber getters and related workers as reported by respondents whose principal industry was other than Agriculture etc. (ASIC sub-divisions 01 and 02). Respondents whose principal industry was Agriculture etc. were not included in the survey. † Less than 50. * Information not available because the figures are subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses.

TABLE 4. JOB VACANCIES : INDUSTRIES (a), MARCH 1976

A.S.I.C. Code (a)				A.S.I.C. Code (a)					
Division	Sub-division	Industry (a)	Number ('000)	Job vacancy rate (b) (per cent)	Division	Sub-division	Industry (a)	Number ('000)	Job vacancy rate (b) (per cent)
B		Mining	0.9	1.2	F		Wholesale and retail trade	9.5	1.2
C		Manufacturing	15.7	1.3	46-47		Wholesale trade	3.9	1.2
	21-22	Food, beverages and tobacco	2.0	1.0	48		Retail trade	5.6	1.3
	23-24	Textiles; clothing and footwear	2.6	(e)2.0	G,H		Transport and storage; communication	2.3	0.6
	26	Paper, printing, etc.	(e)0.8	(e)0.8	I		Finance, insurance, real estate and business services	3.7	1.1
	27	Chemical, petroleum and coal products	0.7	1.0					
		Metal products, machinery and equipment	7.1	1.4					
	29	Basic metal products.	1.2	1.3	J,K		Public administration and defence; community services (c)	12.9	1.5
	31-33	Fabricated metal products; other machinery, etc.	3.9	1.4	A,L		Other (d)	2.3	0.9
	32	Transport and equipment	2.0	1.4					
	25,28,34	Other	2.5	1.3			Total	50.8	1.2
D		Electricity, gas and water	0.4	0.5					
E		Construction	3.0	0.9					

(a) As defined in the *Australian Standard Industrial Classification* (A.S.I.C.). (b) For definition see paragraph 12. (c) Excludes defence forces. (d) Excludes agriculture (A.S.I.C. sub-division 01), services to agriculture (02) and private households employing staff (94). (e) Standard error greater than 20 per cent, but less than 30 per cent – see paragraph 15, page 2.

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